

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/835,046	CORN ET AL.	
	Examiner Cameron Saadat	Art Unit 3713	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to After-final amendment filed 9/1/2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-14 and 16-20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Curran on September 26, 2005.

In the Claims:

Claim 17: line 2, replace "the author" with --an author--

Claim 18: line 4, replace "said crossword puzzle completion" with --a crossword puzzle completion--

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Patentability seen in, although not limited to independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 20: the combination of elements specifically claimed including the feature of identifying an elapsed time during which a user views educational content to ensure that the user views the content for a time period greater than or equal to a minimum time period and less than or equal to a maximum time period, wherein the identifying occurs without interrupting the user viewing the educational content to determine the elapsed time; wherein a professional accrediting authority certifies the compliance of the user with a professional continuing education requirement based on the user viewing the educational content where the elapsed time is a duration of time between the maximum and minimum time periods. The closest prior art of record (US 6,615,020, Richter et al.) does not teach or fairly

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suggest the claimed features in combination. Richter discloses one embodiment wherein, during the course of an instructional period, a system periodically or randomly prompts a student for input in order to have the instructional period continue, thereby insuring that the student does not simply log on and then leave the computer unattended (See Richter, Col. 3, lines 47-58). This embodiment differs from the claimed invention, since the claimed invention identifies an elapsed time during which a user views educational content, wherein the identifying occurs *without interrupting* the user viewing the educational content to determine the elapsed time. A second embodiment described in Richter utilizes a camera to record a student's continual presence during a teaching session in order to verify a student's attendance for a course (See Richter, Col. 4, lines 1-14). In this embodiment, the student is tracked without interrupting viewing of educational content. However, this embodiment lacks the claimed features of identifying an elapsed time and certifying compliance of a user with a professional continuing education requirement based on the user viewing educational content, where the elapsed time is a duration of time between a maximum and minimum time period.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cameron Saadat whose telephone number is (571) 272-4443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cameron Saadat
September 26, 2005


XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TC3700